

Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Catherine Cortez Masto, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mazie Hirono, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Patrick J. Leahy, Ron Wyden, Amy Klobuchar, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Ann Claire Phillips, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The Senior Assistant Executive Clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 72, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 161 Ex.]

#### YEAS—72

Baldwin	Hassan	Risch
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blackburn	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Blunt	Hoeven	Sanders
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Burr	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Capito	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Sullivan
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Thune
Cramer	Menendez	Tillis
Crapo	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Moran	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Fischer	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wicker
Graham	Portman	Wyden
Grassley	Reed	Young

#### NAYS—20

Barrasso	Ernst	Marshall
Boozman	Hagerty	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Cornyn	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lankford	Tuberville
Daines	Lee	

#### NOT VOTING—8

Cardin	Lummis	Shelby
Cassidy	Murray	Toomey
Kennedy	Padilla	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 72, the nays are 20.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk again about the illegal, totally unjustified, unprovoked, and brutal attack on Ukraine by Russian forces.

This is the 11th week in a row I have come to the Chamber to talk about this because I think it is really important that the American people know what is going on over there and that we rally to the defense of our allies in Ukraine.

This week is the 77th anniversary of what is called V-E Day. That is the day the war in Europe ended—World War II—when the United States finally led the allies to defeat the tyranny of Nazi Germany and liberated millions of people. Then, in the Cold War, we led the world again to defeat the encroachment of Soviet communism on Eastern Europe. Again, millions of people were liberated, including Ukrainians.

We cannot forget this because, as we look at Ukraine, what do we see? The same thing—people who yearn to be free. That is all they want is to live in freedom in their own sovereign, independent country. Once again, the United States and our allies in Europe are standing with these Europeans in fighting to hold onto their freedom in the face of this illegal, unprovoked, and brutal attack.

When Vladimir Putin spoke at ceremonies in Russia this week to commemorate the same V-E Day, he used it to justify Russia's invasion, saying:

The danger was growing day by day, [so] Russia [gave] a preemptive response to an aggression.

Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. The Ukrainians were never the aggressors. The Ukrainians just want to live in peace with their neighbors, including with Russia.

Here is a map of Ukraine today, and this is what has been going on.

In the dark red, what you see here is what the Russians took in 2014—the year that Ukraine decided definitively they wanted to turn to the West to be a free, democratic country. Russia responded with this: taking over Crimea and taking over the Luhansk and Donetsk parts of the Donbas.

The light red is what they have taken in this latest invasion, and what they intend to take, according to their military generals who have spoken, is a much bigger area here.

The blue, of course, is where the Ukrainians have pushed back, where they have gone on the counteroffensive. They have actually pushed the Russians out around Kyiv, around the northern part of the country and other parts and, right now, as you can see, in various parts of the Donbas region, including around this town of Kharkiv.

Now, Kharkiv is an interesting situation. It is actually a sister city to Cincinnati, OH, my hometown, and I was on the Sister City Committee decades ago when we developed that relationship. They have a beautiful river running through the city. It was and will

be, in the future, a beautiful city; but now, as these Ukrainians are in the fight of their lives just to keep their democracy, you see what is happening in Kharkiv.

The Ukrainians are beginning to make progress both to the north of Kharkiv and here to the south and to the east. It is possible that the Ukrainians could actually push the Russians back far enough so that the city itself would be out of artillery range of the Russians. That would be great because, right now, the people of Kharkiv, like so many other people in places like Mariupol, of course, are being attacked by the Russians with artillery every night, every day. So, if they could get the Russian forces pushed back beyond that period, they could get relief services in to the civilians—food, water—that were previously denied by the Russians.

I think it might also force the Russians to make a decision. They would have to decide between addressing Ukraine's counteroffensive near Kharkiv—that is here—and expanding their forces over here, which they have said they want to do. I think if they do that—expand their forces—they are going to be risking their communications and supply lines here being cut off by the Ukrainians.

So we will see what happens, but this is a crucial time in the battle. We are at a turning point. I guess that is really my point.

We are being asked to look at legislation that has been sent to us by the administration—called the Ukraine Supplemental Funding bill—at a time when there is a crucial battle going on and when there could be a turning point in this broader war.

Last week, I spoke with the Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States, Oksana Markarova. I will be speaking to her again tomorrow morning. She made the point that the Presidential drawdown authority—that is the funding they are currently using from the United States—is just about depleted. It was about \$3.3 billion in military aid that the President had, with the authority given to him by Congress, to draw down some of our resources to be able to provide to Ukraine. As of last week, she told me that \$3.3 billion is just about depleted; therefore, a new authority is critically needed right now.

You don't want to have a gap—particularly with regard to munitions—in being able to ensure that they have the more effective weaponry—the heavy weaponry—that they are now using in places like this and here and here and can continue to have the ammunition that is needed to be able to continue the fight.

I also spoke late last week to Bridget Brink. She is the current Ambassador to Slovakia and is a seasoned Foreign Service professional whom the Biden administration has now nominated to be the U.S. Ambassador here in Ukraine. We haven't had an Ambassador there for well over a year, maybe

2 years. I have been asking the Biden administration—pushing the Biden administration—to send an Ambassador to Ukraine for over a year. I did the same with the Trump administration when we didn't have an Ambassador there for a while and even with the Obama administration to try to ensure we had a representative.

Why? It is so important to have an Ambassador there. You need somebody at the highest level to be able to have the Ukrainian officials have someone they can work with directly who can answer questions, make commitments, be someone who is authorized by the President. It is also helpful to have that information on the ground being relayed straight back to our teams here in Washington.

At least 17 other countries, by the way, have returned their diplomatic personnel to the capital, Kyiv. We have not. We are, apparently, going to do that soon. I hope so. I hope so. I know that the Ambassador nominee would like to go back to Kyiv. I know that a lot of members of the team would because I have met with them in Poland. They are over here in Poland now, for the most part, and are going into Lviv sometimes; but we need to get back to Kyiv.

In terms of what is going on in the battlefield, let's talk a little more about that and of the importance of the weapons and the materiel support that we have already provided and, therefore, what we must continue to provide.

Since February 24, when this latest Russian invasion began, we have now provided \$13.6 billion in military, economic, and humanitarian aid for Ukraine. This latest request for funding from the White House is for \$33 billion, so it is for even more. There were reports that this latest supplemental would be tied to other things, particularly to the COVID funding that the administration is also eager to get passed. I was strongly against that because, when you tie it up with other things, it inevitably slows it down, and this is absolutely urgent.

I was really pleased to see that about an hour and a half ago, President Biden issued a statement saying he now supports separating the Ukraine funding from the COVID funding. I commend him for that. It is good news. Again, we have seen so many times around here when you combine things, it slows everything down, and it creates a political football that goes back and forth. This is desperately needed assistance that is going to determine whether some Ukrainian civilians and some of their military forces live or die, because this aid is so critical to their success.

After Vladimir Putin's claim of success during this week's V-E ceremony—as we talked about—in Moscow, it is very likely, in my view, that he is now going to feel the need to call up an even fuller mobilization of his military and engage in even more brutality—if

that is possible—against the innocent civilians in Ukraine. So it is all the more reason for us to pass this latest spending request now and get this military equipment to the Ukrainians who need it so desperately.

Some Americans may wonder if we can make a difference in protecting freedom in Ukraine without directly engaging the American military or engaging with Russia. I would say we can, and I would say we have made a difference. The U.S. and our NATO allies and other allies around the world have already made a positive contribution to Ukraine's success in pushing back against the Russians—a much larger army with more weapons of every kind.

Prior to the latest invasion on February 24, the United States and some allies shipped these Javelin anti-tank weapons, Stinger anti-air missiles, and other small arms and munitions to Ukraine to be able to counter what we thought was going to happen and did, which was Russian battalion tactical groups coming into the country. It was effective. It was effective in Kyiv, and it was effective in other areas of Ukraine to be able to push back as you can see. These Russian units were essentially light-mechanized formations which contained armored anti-infantry vehicles and medium to heavy tanks, along with infantry and light artillery. The first 2 months of the war have proven that the Russians were not very effective with their coordination of these groups, and because of their tactical incompetence, they were largely defeated up here by a more proficient and a more effective Ukrainian military.

The mobility at the tactical level among the Ukrainian Armed Forces is at the core of the NATO doctrine in something called “combined arms warfare”—essentially the coordinated employment of the tanks, artillery, and infantry to defend or seize territory. Since 2014, when Ukraine turned away from tyranny and toward the West and Russia immediately invaded, the threat of a larger scale invasion was clear, so Ukraine's forces began to train and learn alongside U.S. troops and other NATO allies. Again, we worked with them to transition from a Soviet-style military to one that emphasized the initiative of noncommissioned officers and mission-style orders and better coordination between these groups.

Thanks to an extensive effort by our military and that of our NATO allies, the Ukrainians were able to build a military that was more proficient and technically agile. It was able not only to withstand the initial Russian onslaught but to defeat Russian forces, including around Kyiv. In the past month, the Ukrainian Armed Forces have repositioned to the east, taking with them that same tactic, that same coordination, and have provided tactical reconnaissance through drones and have used highly accurate artillery. In doing so, they have thwarted

Russian attempts to gain more ground here in the East.

Of course, nothing substitutes for the bravery and grit of the Ukrainian people and particularly of the Ukrainian soldiers—professional and civilian soldiers alike. They are defending their homeland fiercely, and that is the single most important element to their success. But we also owe a debt of gratitude to our troops who trained Ukrainians, many of whom are National Guardsmen, perhaps from your State, and also our British, Canadian, and other NATO partners who helped the Ukrainian military become the effective battlefield force we see today.

I say this because we need to know that the help that we are giving does make a difference, not just in terms of the weapons but also the training.

The training of Armed Forces and equipping them was done through what is called the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, USAI. It was created back in 2016. I actually modified a McCain amendment to create this new initiative. Since 2016, it has provided \$1.6 billion for training, equipment, advisory efforts, command and control functions, cyber defense, and strategic communications. Most importantly, it helped teach Ukraine mobility on the battlefield—again, a model of warfare that was superior to what Russia had.

That first phase of our support included the Javelins and the Stingers we talked about, then a heavy focus on organizing the transfer of existing stocks of Soviet-era weaponry in Eastern Europe—places like Poland or Slovakia—to Ukraine. But these Soviet-era weapons and munitions were always finite, and the war has exhausted a lot of those supplies coming from these other countries in the region. So this Ukraine supplemental request from the White House is understandably a larger amount because Ukraine now requires heavier weaponry and ones that are NATO standard. So more funds are needed to be able to transport these larger weapons at greater distances and to train Ukrainian forces on these weapons and to continue to replenish them with ammunition. So it is more of a traditional battlefield down here requiring that heavier weapon, more expensive weaponry, and now, again, NATO-standard weaponry.

While the United States and our allies are providing significant resources to this cause, the costs imposed on Russia are much greater. What do I mean by that?

Russia has now committed more than 70 percent of its total combat power to Ukraine, and much of that has been degraded and continues to be degraded. This raises an interesting point: Let's remember that Russia directly threatened military intervention against a number of our NATO allies, including the Baltics, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, including Poland, even the UK, and, more recently, two countries that are not NATO but are our allies, Finland and Sweden.

Other allies that they have threatened, we are legally obligated to protect if they are in NATO, under NATO article 5. So downgrading Russia's Army in Ukraine and supporting Ukraine's Armed Forces is a pretty effective way to ensure that Russia does not have the ability to attack NATO and instantly begin a direct U.S.-Russian confrontation—something we have wanted to avoid.

And speaking of NATO, it is encouraging, again, that Sweden and Finland are refusing to be intimidated by these Russian threats and are looking to join the alliance instead. At the end of last week, Finland already conducted military exercises with NATO military units from the United States, the UK, Estonia, and Latvia. I am proud that we are supporting this effort militarily. And Finland is now upgrading its air force. That is good. The Senate should immediately confirm NATO membership of both of these nations as soon as it comes before us.

It is important to note that it is not just the U.S. Government and our allied governments that are supporting Ukraine in its hour of need. Since this terrible conflict began, everyday Americans across the country have stepped up to provide much needed assistance to Ukrainian defenders, refugees, and first responders.

In March, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, sent out a request for surplus or expired personal protective gear to provide to Ukrainian territorial defense forces. They said they needed more protective gear, and we responded. I am proud to say that Ohio answered that call. All together, more than two dozen law enforcement agencies across my home State have donated almost 2,000 pieces of personal protective gear, 71 vest carriers, 45 helmets, and over 1,800 pieces of body armor. With the help of the Fund to Aid Ukraine—a nonprofit based in Parma, OH—this badly needed equipment will soon make its way into the hands of brave Ukrainian defenders who are fighting for their lives as they endure Russia's brutal assault.

This organization has also given 24 pallets of supplies, over 7 tons of medical supplies to Ukraine. I am grateful for everyone who stepped forward, especially to those law enforcement agencies that have stepped forward to help those Ukrainian law enforcement entities and first responders and territorial defense troops who need better protection. And this is happening all over America.

Additionally, there is a group in Cleveland called MedWish. They are amazing. I got to go visit them last month. They are a very effective nonprofit that has worked for years to provide medical supplies, hospital supplies to countries that have suffered, say, from a natural disaster but also in the case of Ukraine, of course, from the war. They have partnered with a group called the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio, headed by my friend Marta Liscynsky, to provide indi-

vidual first aid kits and other medical equipment to Ukrainian first responders, defenders, and civilians. And Cleveland-based KOACORE is delivering 17,000 individual first aid kits to the frontlines. This is a company in Cleveland that is a safety management company so it is a good role for them. They are doing it, again, as volunteers and donating this.

When I was on the Polish-Ukrainian border in March, I saw Marta and another Ohio friend Andy Futey, who is president of the Ukrainian World Congress, in action, organizing some of this equipment that was coming into Ukraine and particularly helping our refugees coming from Ukraine.

One of my own staffers, Josh Prest, recently volunteered to transport some of this assistance to Europe. He checked an extra bag on his flight so he could carry more individual first aid kits, and he delivered them as well.

Again, there are thousands and thousands of Americans doing these sorts of things.

As Russian forces intentionally target Ukrainian civilians to spread fear and panic, this display of generosity from the people of Ohio will reassure Ukrainians that America has their back. With this donation, Ukrainian first responders running into the rubble of schools, apartment buildings, and homes will be able to save more lives. I am very proud of how the people of the great State of Ohio have given their time and resources to help those in need.

Tonight in Cincinnati, OH—my hometown—we have organized a fundraiser, under the leadership of Susie DeYoung, for what is called World Central Kitchen. They do great work all around the globe, including here in the United States, in response to natural disasters, working with FEMA. But they are doing amazing things in Ukraine. The funding for the fundraiser tonight is going to go to World Central Kitchen and also to the Kharkiv sister city efforts I talked about earlier.

I have seen the good work that DC Chef Jose Andres, and his brainchild World Central Kitchen, is doing when I volunteered, along with a few of my colleagues, at a World Central Kitchen location, serving food to refugees—one of his 60 popup kitchens—in the border areas between Ukraine and its neighbors.

Tonight, in Cincinnati, chefs from our entire Cincinnati region are volunteering their skills and some great food for the people of Ukraine. All of these donations are a reflection of how the American people are united in support of Ukraine.

On the sanctions front, I hope we can focus more of our attention on energy. I believe the top priority of all Ukraine's allies should be cutting off the funding of Putin's war machine. The single largest source of that funding is, of course, their energy exports from Russia. Europe relies on these energy exports from Russia. They pur-

chase approximately \$870 million of energy from Russia every single day. That is one reason the ruble has regained some of its value—because these energy receipts are coming in to fund Russia's government and fund the war machine.

For Europe, it is about \$22 million worth of coal every day, \$415 million worth of oil, and \$433 million in natural gas every day, again, funding Russia's brutal assault on Ukraine.

I have talked about this on the floor before, but Putin has long used energy as a weapon, and we have got to put an end to it.

I applaud those European nations that have recently taken steps to find alternative sources of energy and transition away from Russia. For example, recently, Italy, which relies on Russia for approximately 40 percent of its natural gas, is actively working to secure new natural gas contracts with African nations.

And in the last month, Lithuania became the first European country to halt the import of all Russian gas.

The EU took its first tangible step away from Russian fuels last month when it finally agreed to ban coal imports from Russia. This is expected to take effect in August.

As part of their efforts to mark V-E Day on Sunday, the G7, which includes, France, Germany, Italy, Britain, Canada, and the United States, pledged to ban Russian oil. Well, that is good. But let's be sure that this pledge is converted into reality. We have seen agreements before with the EU on this topic, and yet we need to be sure we see actual action.

A total embargo on all energy—oil, gas, natural gas, coal—is needed. The United States has the energy resources, especially liquefied natural gas, to be able to substitute for what Russia has been sending to Europe.

To be there for Europe, the United States must immediately expand our oil and natural gas production here and build the associated energy infrastructure that will allow our hydrocarbons to reach the global market.

Reports are showing that last month in April, European LNG import terminals—so bringing liquefied natural gas into Europe from the United States but also from the Mideast—took in a record amount, hitting their highest level since the start of the pandemic. We have got to continue to build on that trajectory. We have already got a general agreement in place with the EU to do that, but certain countries have blocked its implementation.

More generally, we have got to support all of our domestic producers here in the United States through a robust “all of the above” energy policy that includes renewables, fossil fuels, carbon capture technologies, nuclear power, hydropower, hydrogen, and energy efficiency—all of the above.

Instead of making it more difficult for domestic energy production, I urge the Biden administration to reject

their proposed tax increase on energy production proposed in the President's budget; stop restricting new leases on Federal lands and waters for oil and gas production and help with the permitting of the needed infrastructure instead of proposals like rewriting the definitions of the waters of the United States, which would add significant time and complexity to permitting new energy projects. This is a time when we need to focus on how to help Europe get away from their dependency on Russian energy in order to stop fueling the Putin war machine.

I have mentioned sanctions over these past 11 weeks, from trading sanctions and eliminating Russia's preferred tax status with the United States to banking sanctions to crush President Putin's financial services economy. But we should and must go further, especially when Russia not only continues its onslaught on Ukrainians' defensive combatants but on their noncombatants—on civilians. What they are doing, in so many instances, is clearly war crimes.

I call on the International Criminal Court, again, which has announced an investigation, to follow in Ukraine's footsteps and immediately begin a War Crimes Tribunal. The evidence of war crimes is now clear. There should be no delay.

Earlier, I spoke about the investment the United States has made since 2015 in training Ukrainian troops and modernizing its military. We now know that investment is paying off because Ukrainian troops have outmaneuvered and pushed back on Russia's military.

Speaking to the current Russian invasion, one Ukrainian officer told us:

The biggest mistake the Russians made was giving us eight years to prepare for this.

Thank goodness we had that time. We could have used it even more productively, but we were able to make great progress.

I close tonight on this because it shows why U.S. leadership around the world is so important: Without the bipartisan action of Congress and multiple administrations—including the Obama, Trump, and now Biden administrations—what Ukraine is achieving would not have been possible. That is why it is so important we take up this Ukrainian supplemental immediately, this week, and pass it into law. We have made a difference. We can continue to make a difference, but we are at a crucial point in this war.

So much more needs to be done. But do you know what? I am hopeful. I am hopeful because of what we have all seen. Over the past 2 months, the resiliency and fortitude of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the Ukrainian people, it has shown the world what patriotism and bravery truly is.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I was unable to cast a vote on rollcall vote No. 148 the motion to instruct the conferees of the United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 offered by Senator BARRASSO. The motion would force the administration to immediately develop a 5-year offshore oil and gas leasing plan that includes a minimum of 10 region-wide oil and gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska regions of the Outer Continental Shelf—OCS—with two sales every year.

Had I been present, I would have voted against the motion. Rather than tying the administration's hands with an arbitrary timetable for offshore leases, we should be carefully weighing the risks and benefits of such projects to each offshore ecosystem while diversifying our energy sources, enhancing our energy efficiency, and encouraging the transition to clean renewable energy.

### TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSH DAVIS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Dr. Josh Davis, of Wichita, KS.

Dr. Davis is an emergency room physician at Ascension Via Christi St. Francis Hospital in Wichita. Like many of us, Josh was deeply disturbed by the widespread human suffering caused by Russia's bloody invasion of Ukraine. What makes him different than most, however, was his resolve to be a part of the solution. After seeing the images of Ukrainian refugees fleeing their homes, Josh knew he needed to help. On April 14, he boarded a plane to war-torn Ukraine, not knowing where he would be going or what he would be doing. All he knew was that he was going to help those in need.

While in Ukraine, Josh helped transport medical supplies and patients, while also providing refugee children with much needed medical treatment. He also brought two suitcases full of gauze, bandages, rubber gloves, and other much-needed medical supplies with him. While in Ukraine, he saw firsthand the destruction and suffering that war brings. The biggest lesson learned for Josh was that this widespread suffering cannot be stopped by the actions of a few, but that change will only come from the actions of many. He has already begun to make

plans to return to Ukraine in order to provide further medical support and relief.

I would like to thank Josh for all that he has done. He has been an exemplary representative for the great State of Kansas, and the United States of America. His service to others makes us all proud. I now ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Josh Davis for his selflessness and service to those in need, as well as in wishing him the best of luck in the future.

### TRIBUTE TO RYAN PFEIFER

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Ryan Pfeifer of Topeka, KS.

Ryan was presented with a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award at a recent Washburn Rural High School assembly. This award has an outstanding reputation in the teaching world. To some, it is known as the "Oscars of Teaching." This award celebrates teachers' work with students and shines a light on their future work as educators. In addition to the financial award, he was given mentorship and support, along with an all-expenses-paid trip to a forum where other recipients come together.

The Milken Educator Award looks to honor unrecognized teachers. It has teams of administrators and State education departments vetting out finalists for the award. Teachers are unaware they are nominated, so when Pfeifer was called down to the gym floor to receive the award, he was thrilled. Ryan has a way with his students. Students describe him as reliable and dedicated, which is a great reputation to hold. He even gave up his regular planning and advising period to provide additional support for students. I truly believe that he deserved this award. He has helped so many students live up to their potential. A previous award winner, Brad Nicks, said "He's always stood out as one of those exceptional educators, somebody that builds really important relationships with students." I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful impact Mr. Pfeifer has had on his students and to honor him for this great accomplishment.

### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EL DORADO BAND

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the 100th anniversary of the El Dorado Band.

The purpose of the El Dorado Municipal Band is to provide musical entertainment in the summer for the city of El Dorado and to provide the opportunity for musicians from high school age and above to perform. The band began as the El Dorado Boys Band in the early 1920s, and is one of the oldest municipal bands in Kansas. The band's first public home was a traditional round band shell at Gordy Park in the